

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed June 28, 2005. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 3, 5 – 8 and 10 - 20 remain pending. In particular, Applicants have amended claim 8, and have canceled claim 9 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants have canceled claim 9 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of this canceled claim in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 3, 5 – 7 and 15 – 20 are allowed. The Office Action also indicates that claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As set forth above, Applicants have amended claim 8 to include the limitations previously recited in claim 9. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 8 and its dependent claims 10 – 14 are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 8 and 10 - 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Liang* in view of *Wood*. As set forth above, Applicants have amended claim 8 to include the limitations previously recited in

claim 9, the allowability of which is set forth in the Office Action. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 8 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 10 - 14 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 8, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.


Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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Reg. No. 43,024